soundness, maintenance, security and safety aspects of operations and human resources development proposed to be undertaken by the applicant.

2. Choice of the aircraft type and size should be left to the operator.

3. To eliminate non-serious entrepreneurs and to achieve economies of scale, the minimum fleet size for a scheduled operator should be raised from the existing three (3) to five (5) aircraft and the minimum amount of the shareholders funds should be enhanced from existing Rs. 5.00 crores to Rs. 10 crores for aircraft of all-up-weight below 40,000 kgs and from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 30 crores for aircraft of all up weight exceeding 40,000 kgs.

4. Induction of total capacity in the air transport sector should be predetermined on the basis of trend growth of traffic and projections made for at least a period of five years on annual basis. This information should be widely publicised to enable the entrepreneur to take investment decisions.

5. In the distribution of this predetermined capacity for induction, while preference will be given to Indian Airlines according to its fleet augmentation plan subject to its ability to do so, to meet a share of additional capacity that would emerge each year, there would not be any pre-determined restriction on the induction of capacity by private operators.

6. The present policy of route dispersal guidelines be retained and strictly enforced. According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North-East, Jammu & Kashmir, Andaman Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep 10% of their capacity deployed on the specified trunk routes.

Upgradation of the Srinagar airport

285.DR. KARAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the long standing decision to upgrade the Srinagar airport into an international airport will be implemented;

(b) whether the Jammu runway will be extended in order to receive larger planes; and

(c) if so, what is the probable date for completion of these two projects?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Srinagar Airport belongs to Defence authorities. For upgrading Srinagar Airport to international standards, the matter is under examination in consultation with Ministry of Defence.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Runway at Jammu airport is planned to be extended to 7500' to cater to AB-320 class of aircraft without load penalty. The land requirement has been projected to the State Government. After the land is made available to AAI, the project will be taken up.

Demand of direct flight from Bhavnagar-Bhuj or Jamnagar to Delhi

286. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people of Kutch and Saurashtra region of Gujarat are demanding a direct flight either from Bhavnagar-Bhuj or Jamnagar to Delhi for quite a long period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Bhavnagar is an airbus base station;

(d) the details of the action taken so far by the Indian Airlines or any other ATO's in this regard; and

(e) by when the flights are likely to become operational, if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Requests have been received for operating a direct flight from Bhavnagar/ Jamnagar to Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Indian Airlines has, at present, no plans to introduce direct services between Bhavnagar/Bhuj/Jamnagar and Delhi due to low traffic potential in the sector. However, suitable connections have been provided over Mumbai by Indian Airlines for the convenience of passengers desirous of travelling between Delhi and Bhavnagar/Bhuj/Jamnagar Private Operators are, however, being encouraged to add more stations in their network including Bhavnagar/Bhuj/Jamnagar.

सिंगापुर एयरवेज के साथ सहयोग का प्रस्ताव

287. **श्री राघवजी:**

डा० वाई० लक्ष्मी प्रसाद:

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी:

क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या भारतीय उद्योगपति, श्री टाटा की कम्पनी ने सिंगापुर एयरवेज के साथ मिलकर भारत में उड़ानों के लिए कोई प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत किया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है:

(ख) क्या भारत सरकार ने उनके प्रस्ताव को स्वीकार कर लिया है; यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में आगे क्या प्रगति हुई है; यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उस प्रस्ताव में किसी संशोधन का सुझाव दिया है; यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है?

नागर विमानन मंत्री तथा सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री सी० एम० इब्राहीम): (क) जी, हां। प्रस्ताव में सिंगापुर एयरलाइन्स द्वारा 40% इक्विटी भागीदारिता और पहले वर्ष में 7 विमान प्रचालित करने की अनुमति शामिल है। उत्तरोत्तर विमानों की संख्या में वृद्धि करके इसे 19 करने का प्रस्ताव है।

(ख) अंतर्देशीय विमान परिवहन सेवा सेक्टर में विदेशी इक्विटी और अनिवासी भारतीयों को इक्विटी भागीदारिता संबंधी पद्धतियां बनाई जा रही हैं।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

Foreign airlines equity steps in joint venture domestic airlines

288. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign airlines are allowed to hold equity stakes in joint venture domestic airlines;

(b) if not, the aviation policy in this regard; and

(c) the Government plans regarding private sector investment in the airport infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) The modalities for foreign equity and NRI equity participation in the domestic air transport services sector are under formulation.

(c) Plans regarding private sector investment in the airport infrastructure are under formulation.

Proposal to modernise its fleet by the Indian Airlines

289. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJI RAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines propose to augment and modernise its fleet by replacing old and aged aircrafts;

(b) if so, the details of the plan; and

(c) the steps so far taken in that direction and the decision to procure aircrafts, if any, taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on its 55% share in the domestic market projections, Indian Airlines propose to augment and modernise its fleet in the 9th plan